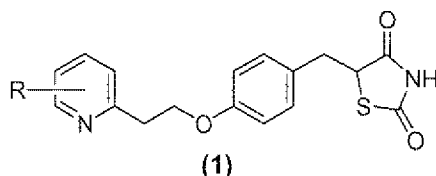


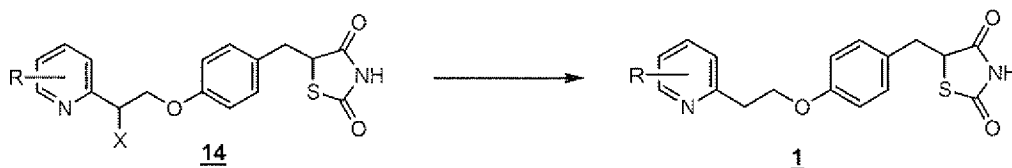
## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a thiazolidinedione[[s]] compound of formula 1



wherein R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, comprising ~~such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, iso-propyl, butyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably the lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms, more preferably R represents 5-ethyl, when the compound of formula 1 represents pioglitazone, which involves~~

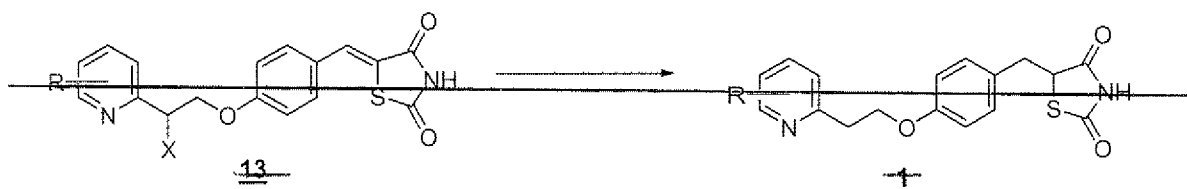


reducing a [[the]] compound of formula 14 or its salt[[s]], where X represents OH, Cl, Br, OMs[[,]] or [[and]] OTs with a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of metallic reducing agents in acid and catalytic agents in solvents to the compound of formula 1.

2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reducing agent is zinc or ~~reduction is carried out using zinc and acetic acid in~~ an alcoholic solvent[[s]] selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, water and ~~or their mixtures thereof or catalytic hydrogenation with Raney Nickel, 10% Pd/C in solvents such as MeOH, EtOH, isopropanol, THF.~~

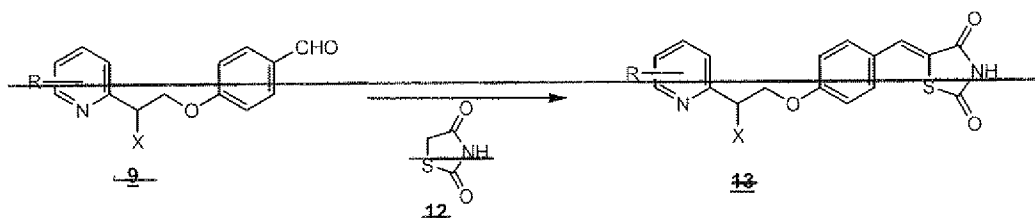


OTs, & R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, *iso*-propyl, butyl, *iso*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, pentyl, *iso*-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably the lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms, more preferably R represents *n*-ethyl, using Raney Ni or 10% Pd-C in alcoholic solvents to obtain the compound of formula 1 directly.



6. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of compound of formula 1 as claimed in claim [[1]] 5 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of metal borohydrides in the presence of a cobalt catalyst in a solvent at 50 to 100°C. which involves

- i) ——— condensation of a compound of formula 9, with 2,4-thiazolidinedione of formula 12, in suitable solvents selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, 2-propanol, butanol, *iso*-butanol, 2-methoxyethanol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, acetonitrile, dioxalane, dimethoxyethane, toluene, acetic acid or their mixtures thereof, in presence of an organic base selected from ammonia, methyl amine, ethyl amine, *n*-butyl amine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, pyridine, morpholine, piperazine, diethylamine, di-isopropyl amine or triethyl amine and catalytic amount of organic acid selected from acetic acid, *p*-toluene sulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, or hydrobromic acid to obtain compound of formula 13.

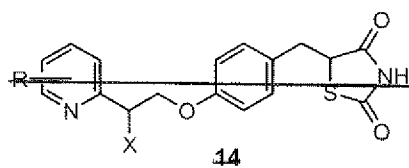


- ii) ——— chemoselective reduction of the compound of formula 13, as claimed in any preceding claims above to obtain 14.

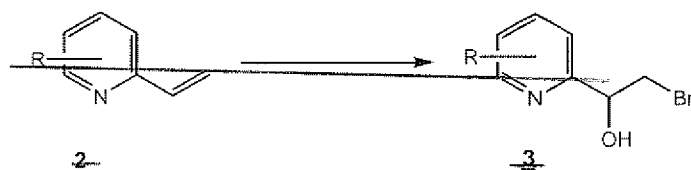


iii) — Reduction of compound of formula 14 as claimed in claim 1 to obtain the compound of formula 1.

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the reduction with metal borohydride is carried out in the presence of a ligand selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-bipyridyl, 1,10-phenanthroline and dimethyl glyoxime. A compound of formula 14, or its salts, where X represents Cl, Br, OMs, and OTs and R represents straight chain or branched alkyl group of one to six carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, iso-propyl, butyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, tert butyl, pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, hexyl, preferably lower alkyl groups of one to three carbon atoms.



8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein the reducing agent is a



metal catalyst selected from the group consisting of Raney nickel, palladium charcoal, palladium black, palladium sulfate, palladium carbonate, barium sulfate, barium carbonate, platinum oxide and platinum on carbon in a solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, dioxane, dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, ethyl acetate, acetic acid, dimethyl formamide, N-methyl pyrrolidine and combinations thereof at 50 to 100°C. A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein R represents 5-ethyl;

Claims 9-22 (canceled)